

Mr. LARIJANI (Islamic Republic of Iran): Mr. President, I would like at the outset to express my pleasure and gratitude for the opportunity which has been given to me to address this august forum. May I also express my sincere wishes for the success of the current session of the Conference on Disarmament.

The items on the agenda of the current session of the Conference on Disarmament are all of importance to the future of mankind and international peace and security. The Islamic Republic of Iran attaches great significance to, and follows with keen interest, the deliberations in this Conference. However, due to time limitations, I cannot take up all the issues, but will confine myself to the important issue of chemical weapons, hoping that we can contribute in some way to this important issue. The issue of chemical weapons, the discussion about this topic, is a matter of urgency at this time.

Nuclear weapons were twice used in the course of the Second World War. Fortunately, they have not been used since. Chemical weapons, on the contrary, have been deployed continuously and used on an increasing basis over the past three and a half years. The main characteristics of chemical deployment over this period includes the ever-increasing sophistication of the chemical weapons and the chemical agents which have been used, making the cure of the injured people more difficult and the provision of help much more

(Cont'd)

It is very essential that we should all for a moment imagine how a child would behave when he cries hard for relief, and with each cry, jumps of this kind gas are pumped into his lungs. We should also imagine what the desperate mother could do -- prevent the child from breathing, I mean suffocate him, or let her bear one die of mustard gas.

Mr. President, please don't recommend that all children should carry a gas mask in their back-packs; don't recommend that children should stop breathing for a few hours. No, Mr. President, we should do something serious, and right now.